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## Report of the Secretary.

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Since the Washington meeting the publications of our Association have been regularly issued and have, I think it is safe to say, maintained their reputation both in this country and in Europe. The publications have been under the editorial charge of the publication committee, and the establishment of this committee to take charge of the editorial work of the Association must be regarded as on the whole a decided improvement, although there have been certain disadvantages in the separation of the work into parts, and these will be mentioned presently.

It was resolved at the Washington meeting to undertake two new lines of work. The first was the publication of a series of popular leaflets on economic and social topics. The second was the translation of important foreign works. I believe nothing has been done in regard to our popular line of work. But I understand that some progress has been made in translations of foreign works, though nothing yet has been published. It would seem desirable that the Association should develop both of these lines of work more vigorously.

There has been from the beginning a steady increase in the numbers of our members, and this has continued since the Washington meeting. There were 638 names in the list of members published at the time of the Washington meeting, 718 in the list

published in January 1892, and 732 in the list published August, 1892. A most important recent development has been the establishment of a large branch in the Mississippi valley, called the South Western Branch. It is proposed that the members in this branch should meet in different cities, as Kansas City, Missouri and Lawrence, Kansas. This South Western Branch promises to develop considerable strength and activity, and suggests that more attention should be given to the establishment of local societies. There are great possibilities in this direction.

The treasurer's report will show that our financial condition is not entirely satisfactory because our funds have not increased. It would seem that we have at best held our own while we ought to have added to our resources. This is a matter which deserves our earnest attention. We should remember that the receipts from life membership fees constitute a liability.

The subject of our finances brings me naturally to certain recommendations. Before the institution of a publication committee, the secretary participated actively in every department of the work of the Association, and had a general oversight over the affairs of the Association. He knew the plans and also the condition of the finances, and could call a halt whenever necessary. Since the Washington meeting the publication committee pursues its plans independently, and neither the secretary nor the treasurer has known what it has proposed to do. Other disadvantages result from the fact that there is no one person who is familiar with every part of our activity. The publications cannot be pushed as well through the press, and no one is in a position to give

the information which may be desired by members and the public, and which it is naturally expected the secretary should be in a position to give. As already stated, it seems to be an improvement to divide the work more than it was divided in our earlier days, but unity of administration should not be sacrificed. The secretary recommends that plans be taken to restore this unity. One method would be to make the secretary ex-officio a member of all important committees.

I earnestly recommend that annual meetings be held. Experience shows conclusively that nothing stimulates interest like a general meeting. Sales of publications increase and additions are made to our membership list after an annual meeting is announced. Whereas if a year passes without a meeting a decline in interest is clearly visible to the secretary.

It seems to me also eminently desirable that at each annual meeting the time and place of the following should be carefully discussed, and if possible, agreed upon. Members often have preferences which are not known to the executive committee.

I would also suggest that it might be desirable to appoint some qualified, energetic young man executive secretary to give his attention to the work of the Association, to the development of its resources and increase of its numbers. I am not prepared positively to recommend the appointment of an executive secretary in addition to a general secretary, but I would like to call the attention of the members to the subject.

RICHARD T. ELY,  
*Secretary.*